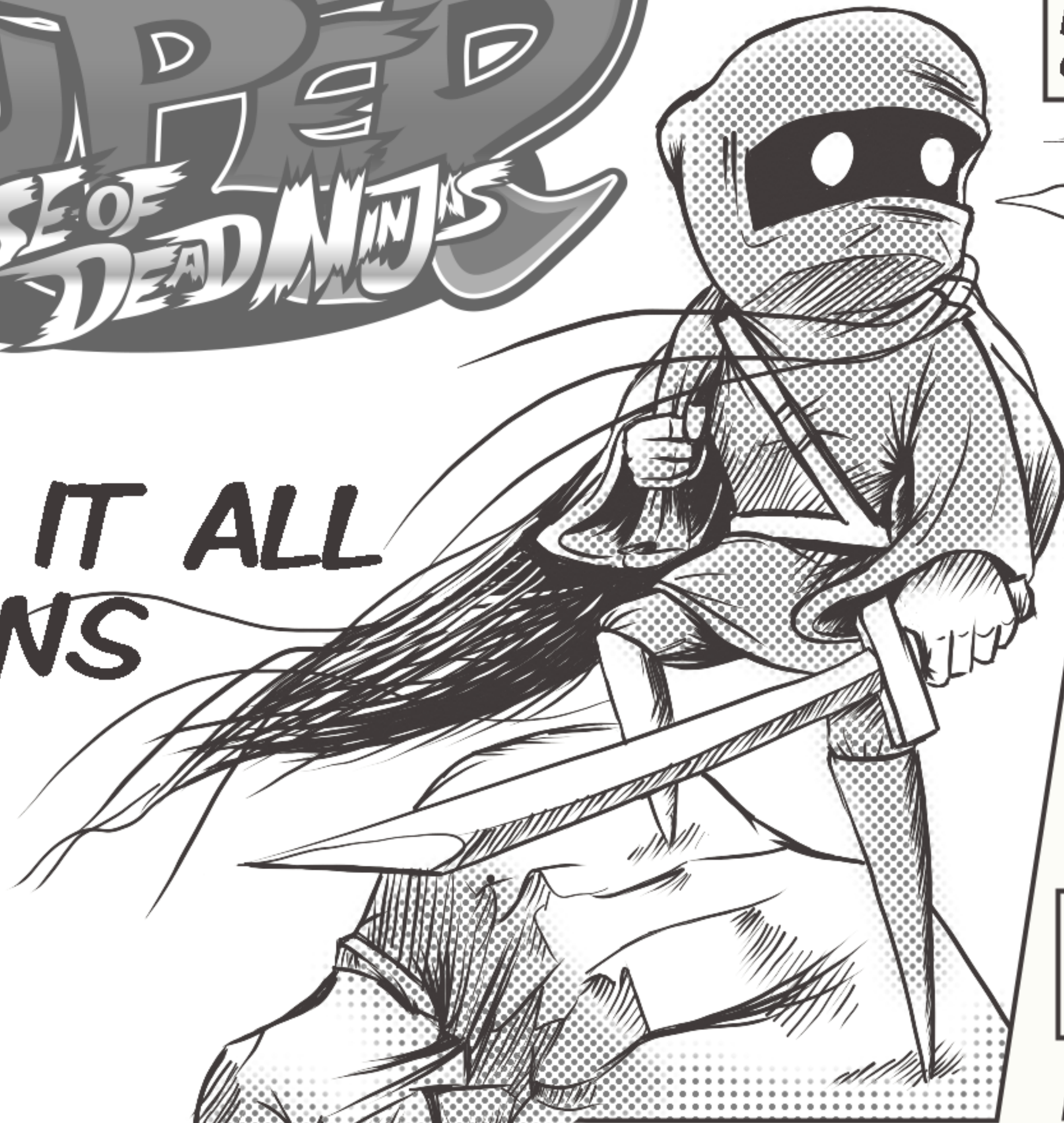


STUPID HOUSE OF DEAD NINJAS

ISSUE 1:

HOW IT ALL BEGINS

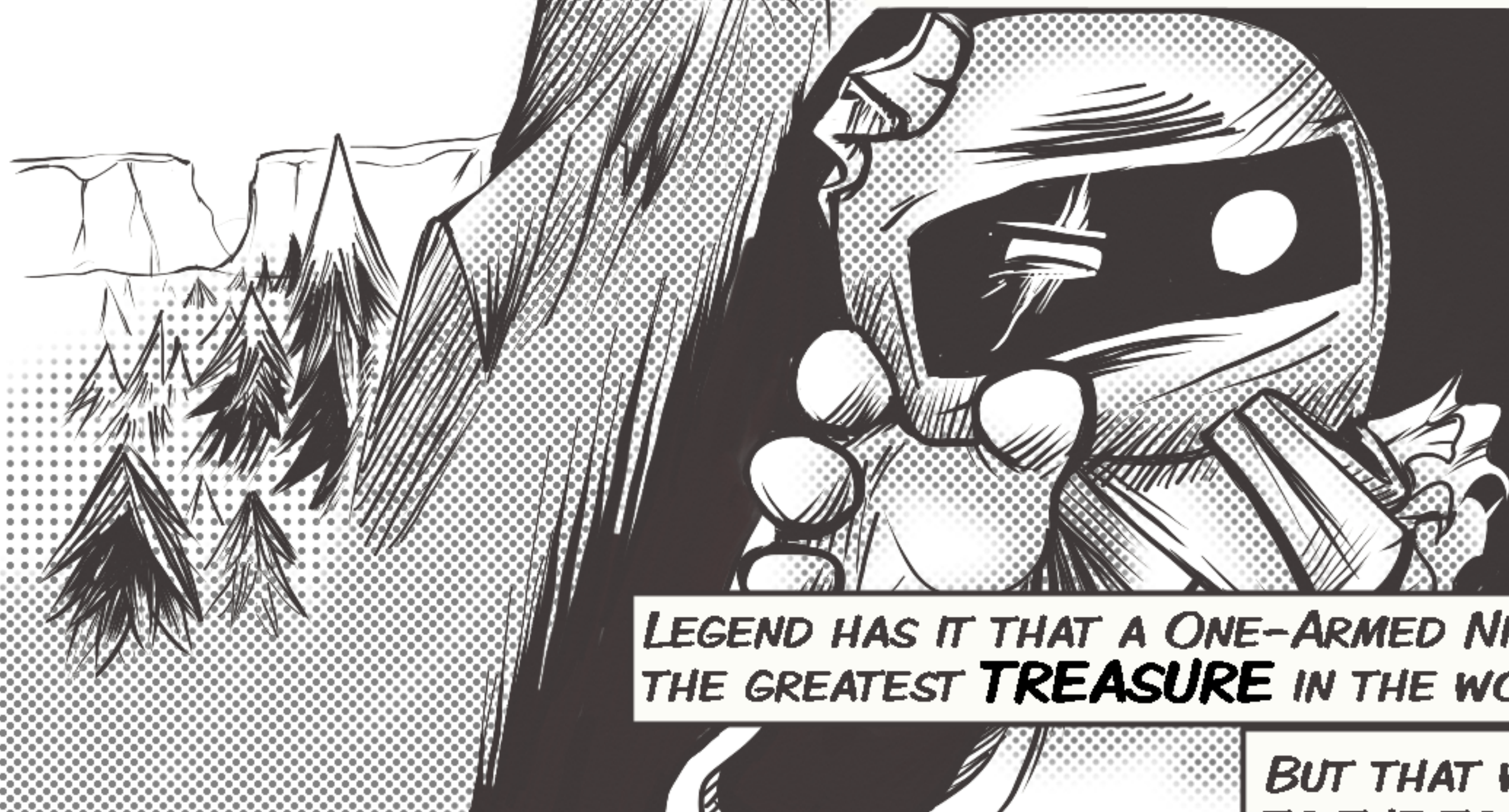


THIS IS WHERE I BEGIN MY JOURNEY. I AM **NINTAI RYOKO**, THE CRIMSON NINJA, AND I HAIL FROM A VILLAGE IN A DISTANT PART OF CHUN-JAN.

NOT THAT IT MATTERS.

WHAT DOES MATTER IS THE DILAPIDATED OLD LODGE BEFORE ME NOW, WHICH STANDS AMONGST THE REMNANTS OF A DESERTED VILLAGE...

...AND THE TOWER.



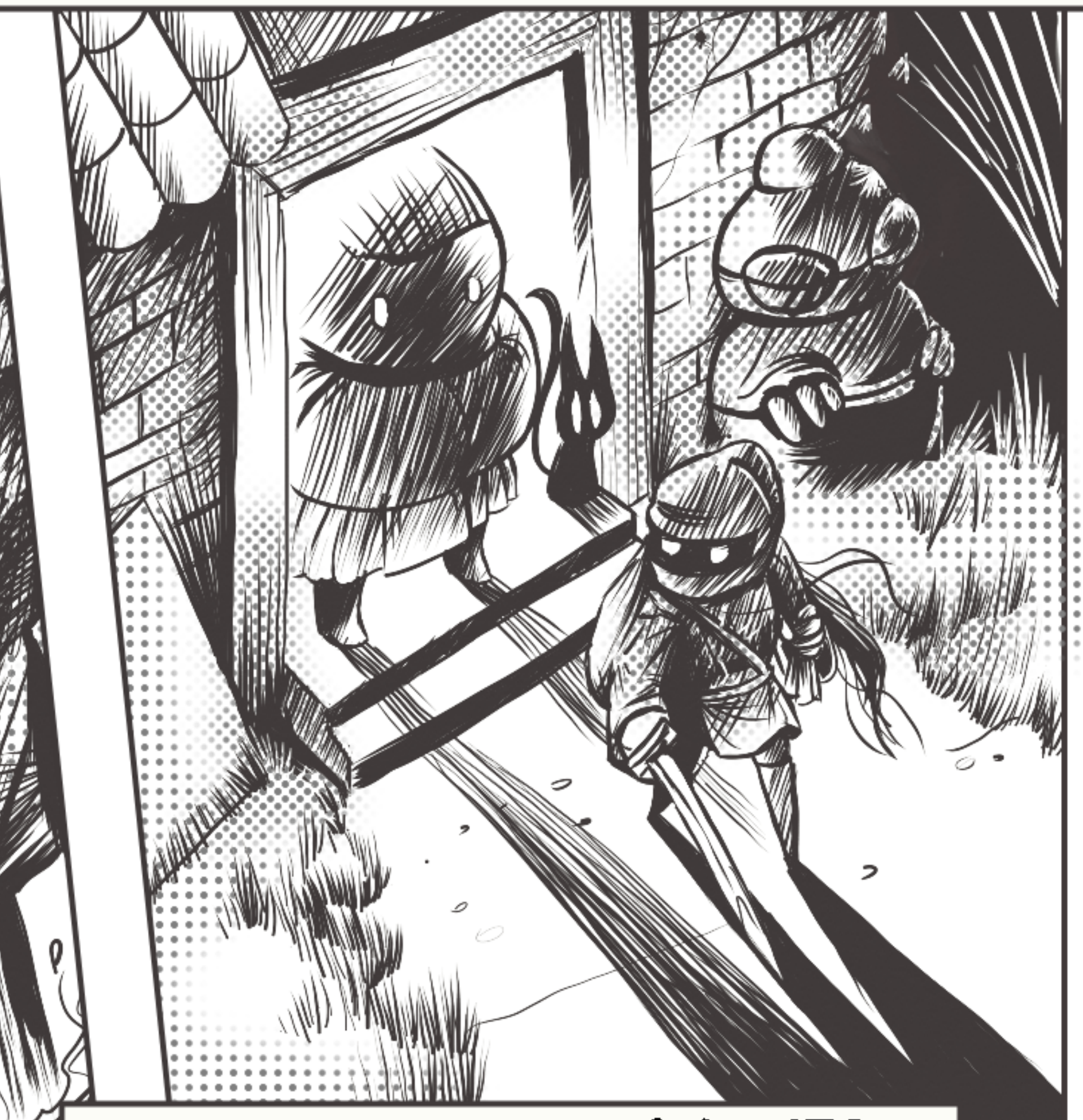
LEGEND HAS IT THAT A ONE-ARMED NINJA TRAVERSED THE TOWER, REACHED THE VERY BOTTOM, AND FOUND THE GREATEST **TREASURE** IN THE WORLD.

BUT THAT WAS MERELY **TALL TALES** FROM **IDLE TONGUES**. HE ULTIMATELY FELL TO THE TOWER'S INFINITE DARKNESS. ANYWAY, THAT IS ALL IN THE PAST.

THE PRESENT, HOWEVER, BRINGS NEW STORIES.



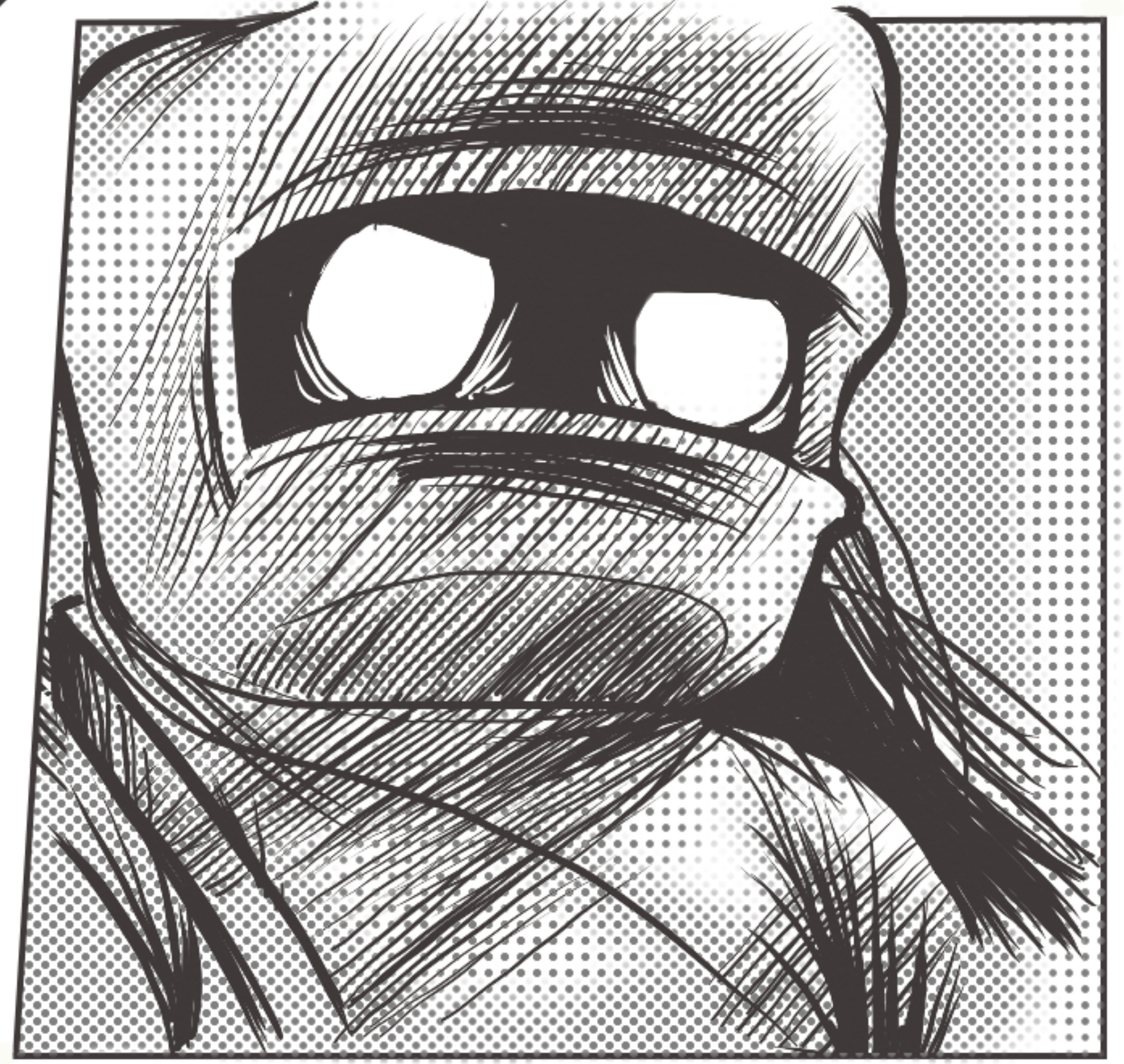
I DO NOT WANT TREASURE, LIKE SO MANY BEFORE ME, FOR THAT IS A FOOL'S ERRAND. I HAVE NO NEED FOR SUCH TRINKETS.



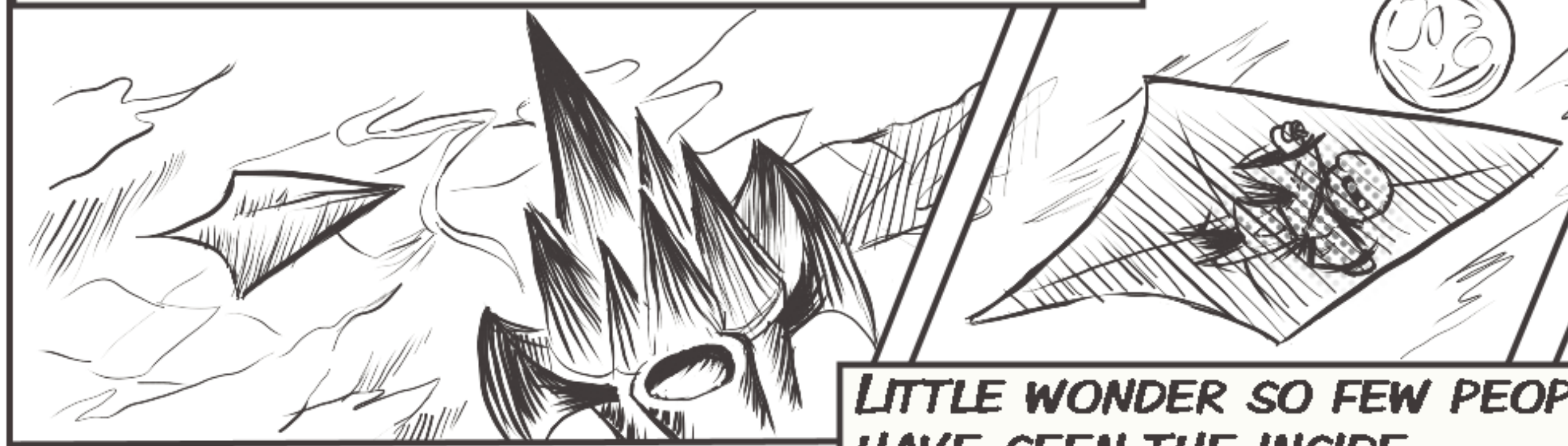
WHAT I AM AFTER... ARE ANSWERS.

RECENT WHISPERS TELL OF THE HORRIFIC DEMON **ABARGHUS**, AND HIS DIABOLICAL MINIONS, WHO HAVE BEEN TERRORIZING THE NEARBY VILLAGES. THIS ONE HAD ALREADY FALLEN, AND MORE WILL NO DOUBT FOLLOW.

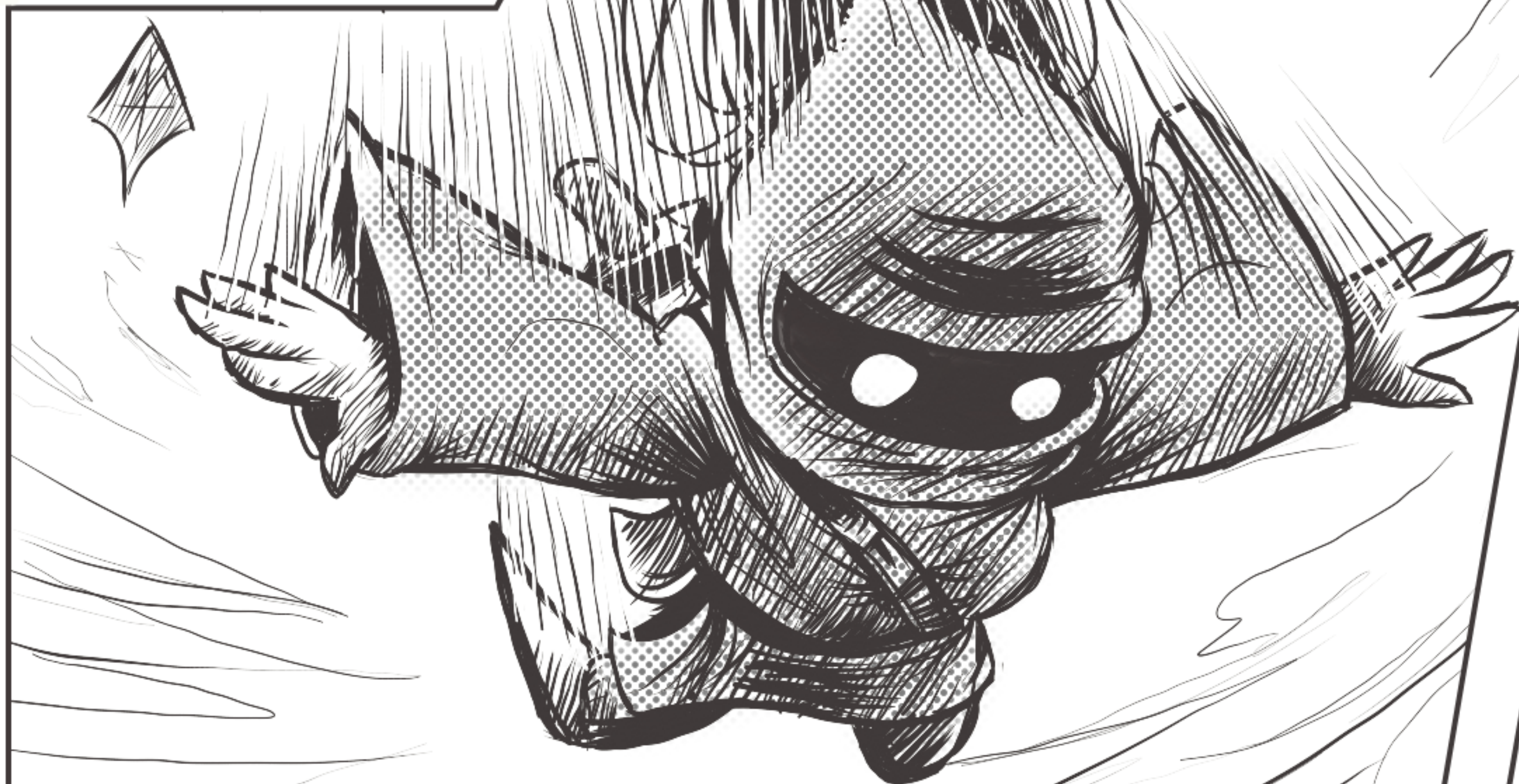
STORIES ABOUND OF INNOCENTS BEING DRAGGED SCREAMING TO THE TOWER - THE **ZIGGURAT OF INFINUM** - AND LOCKED UP FOREVER. WHAT HAPPENS TO THEM THERE... NO ONE KNOWS. BUT I WILL SOON.



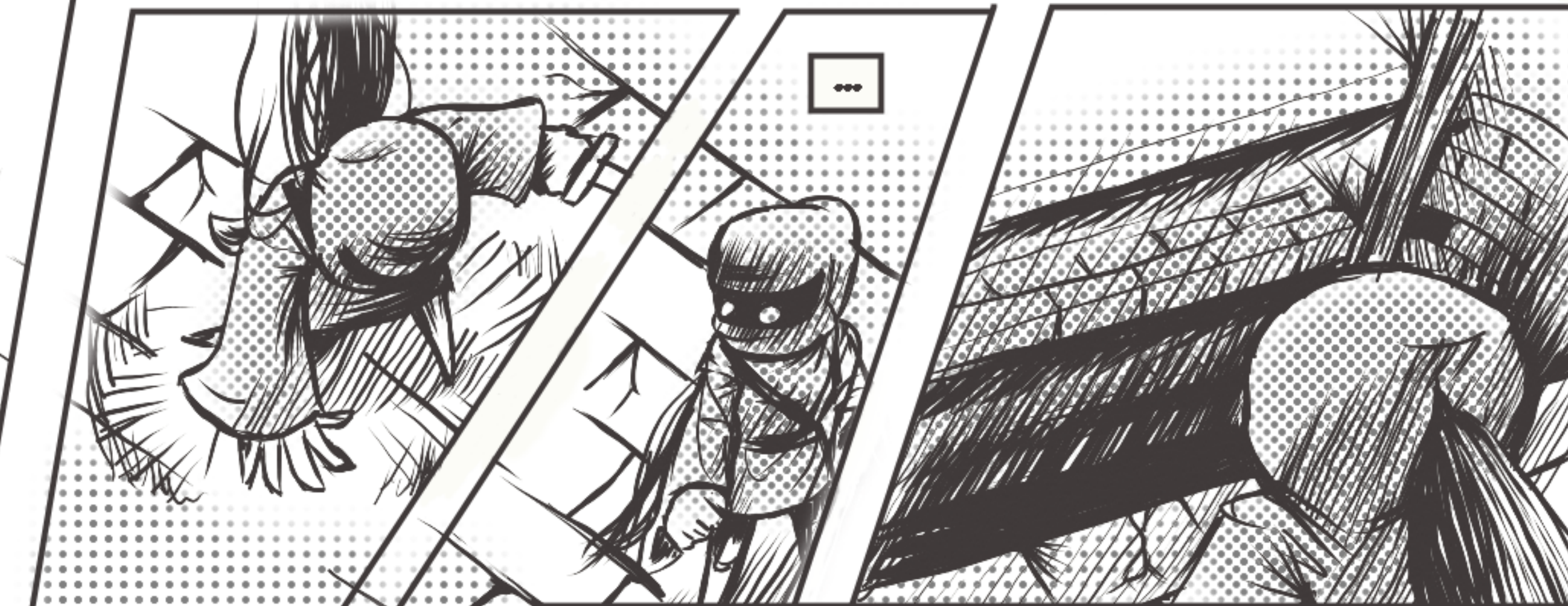
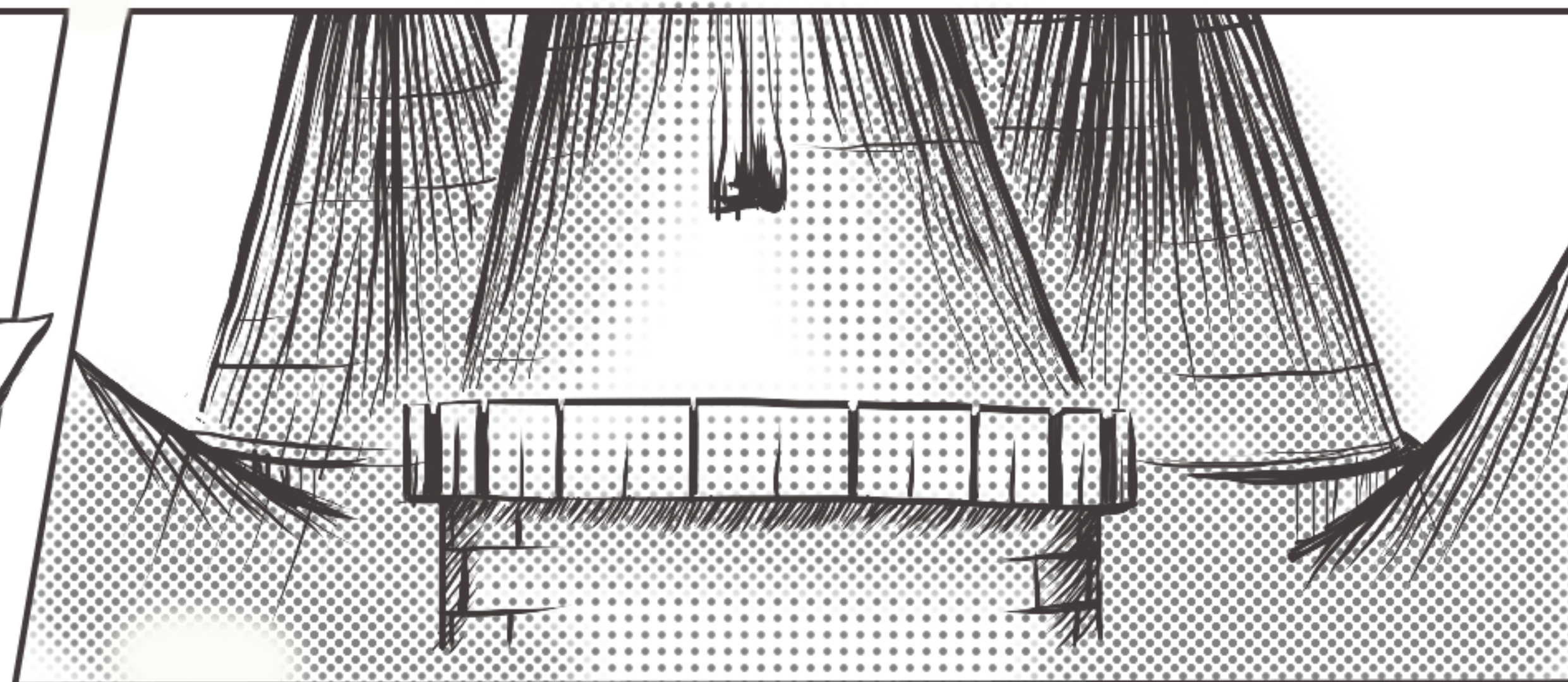
...SO THIS IS HOW ONE ENTERS THE TOWER?



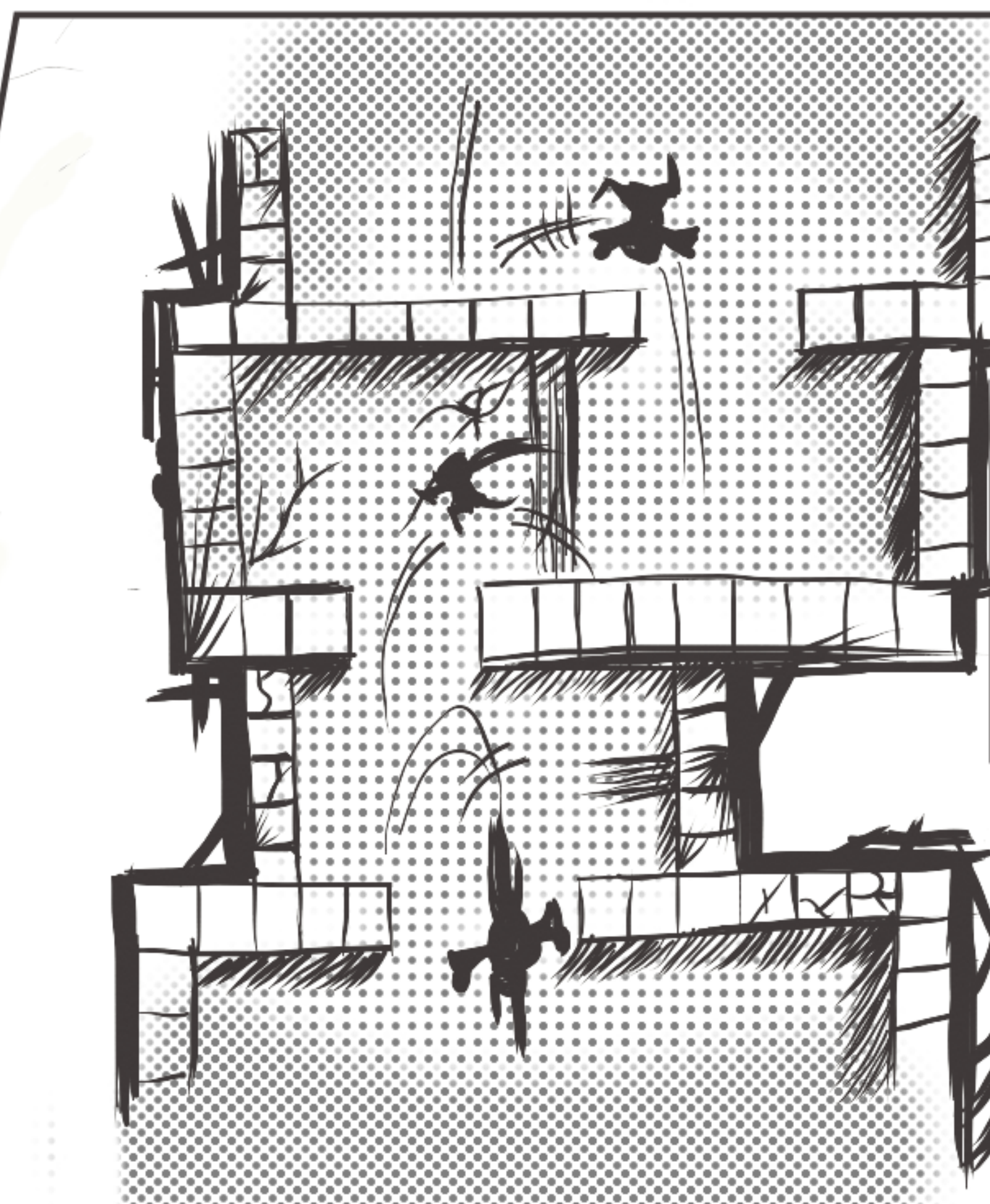
LITTLE WONDER SO FEW PEOPLE HAVE SEEN THE INSIDE.



THIS IS ALMOST CERTAINLY HOW HE WOULD HAVE ENTERED.



HMM. NO WELCOME COMMITTEE? STRANGE...

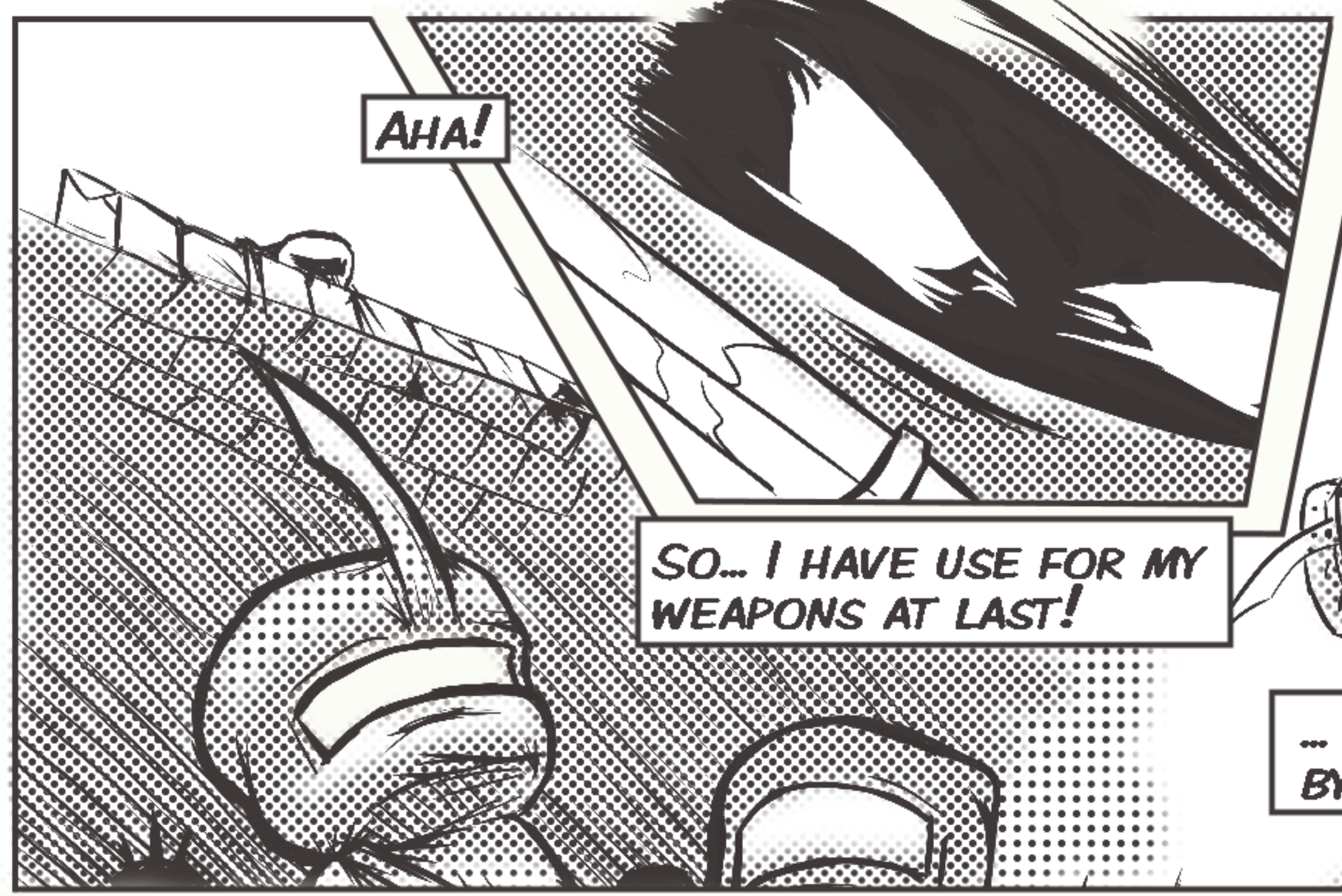


I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO **GO DOWNWARDS**. THEREFORE, I WILL DO SO. AND QUICKLY.

I'VE HEARD RUMOURS OF **GIGANTIC BEASTS**, SOAKED IN THE BLOOD OF TRESPASSERS, THAT GIVE CHASE IF ONE'S TIME RUNS OUT.

A CHANCE ENCOUNTER WITH SUCH MONSTERS WOULD BE... **UNWELCOME**.

A SMALL BAND OF INEXPERIENCED NINJAS MILL AROUND BEFORE ME. THEY WILL BE NO MATCH FOR MY GLEAMING BLADE.

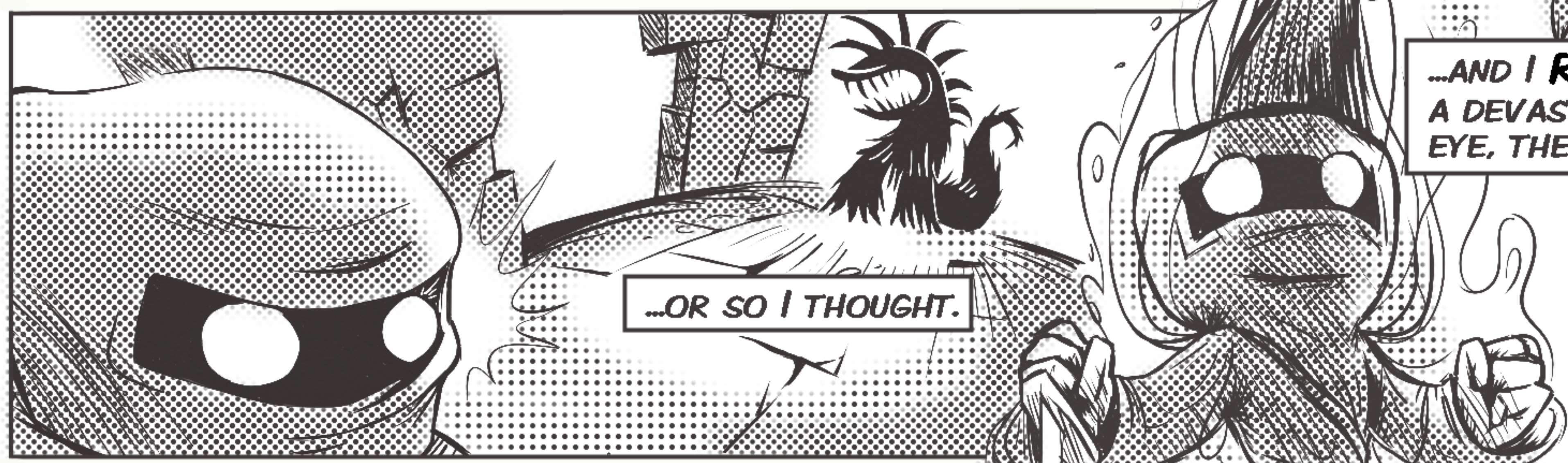


AHA!

SO... I HAVE USE FOR MY WEAPONS AT LAST!

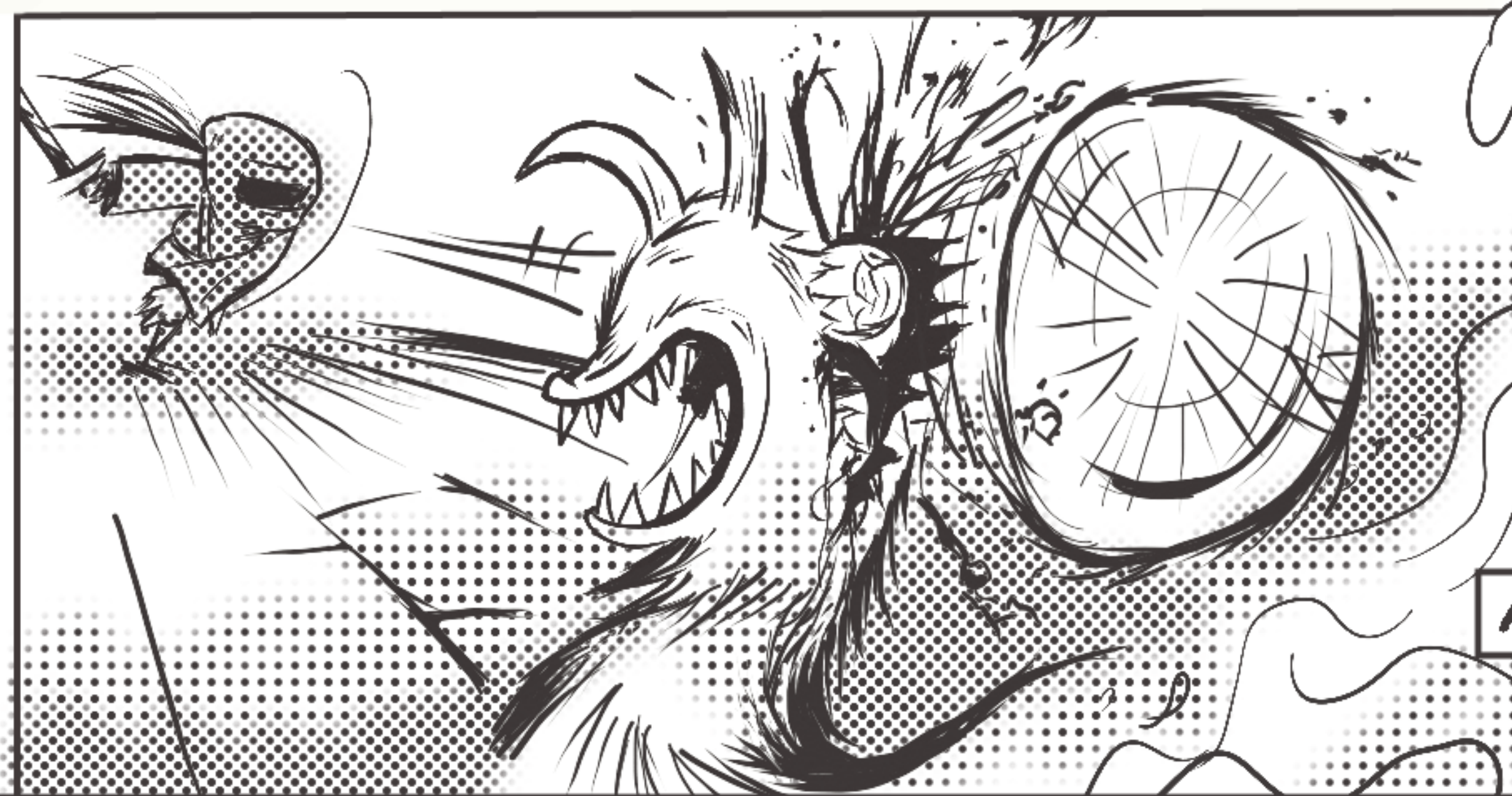
... I STRIKE DOWNWARDS BY HOLDING DOWN IN THE AIR...

I ATTACK WITH PRESSES OF THE Z KEY, BEHEADING SOME OF THE NINJAS...



...OR SO I THOUGHT.

...AND I RUN, JUMP AND PRESS DOWN TO PERFORM A DEVASTATING AIRSPIN ATTACK. IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE, THEY ALL LAY DEAD.



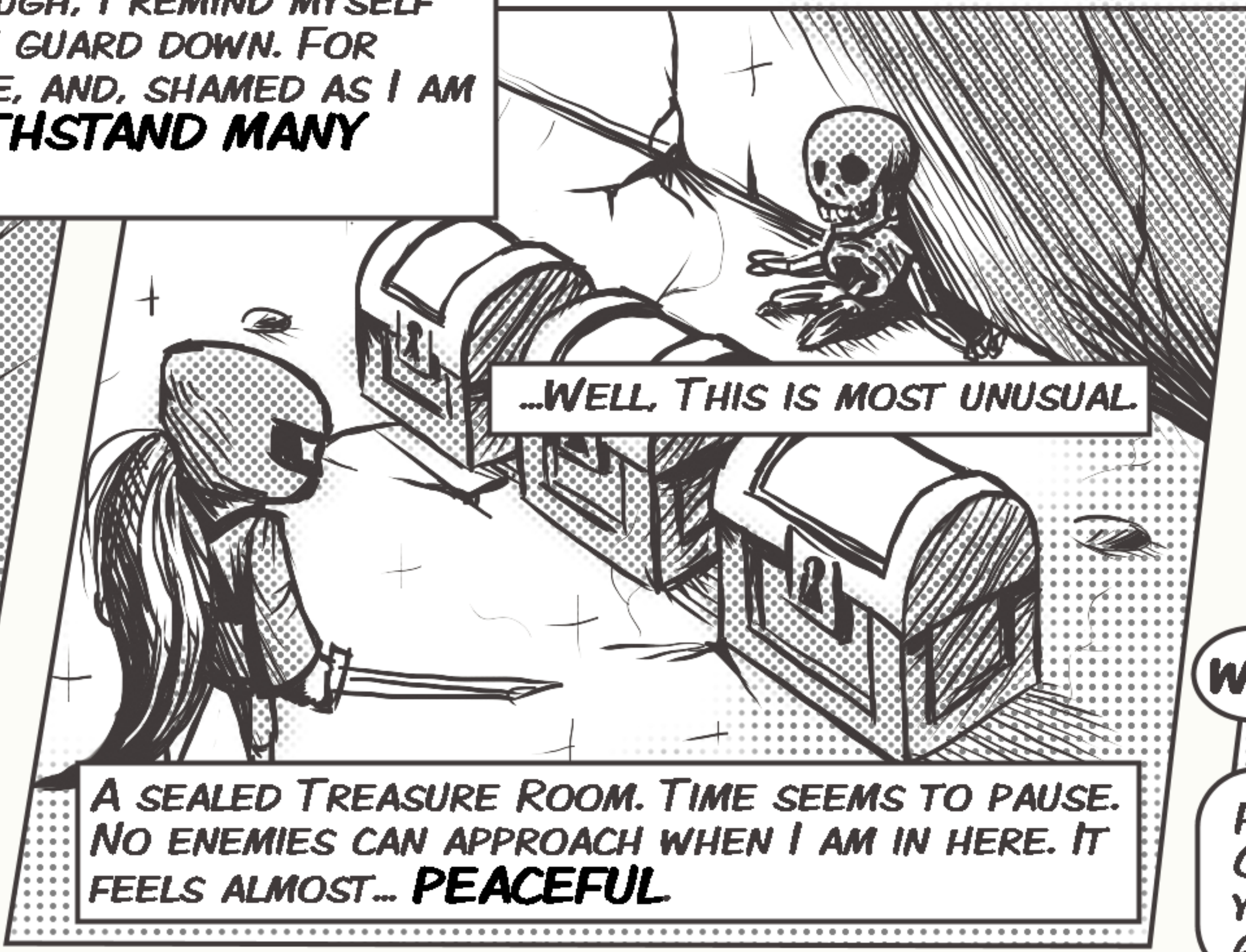
AND NOW, THE REAL FUN BEGINS.

MY OLD MASTER TAUGHT ME AN EXPERIMENTAL NEW RAGE TECHNIQUE THAT I CAN USE WHEN I HAVE SLAIN ENOUGH OF MY ENEMIES. WITH IT, I BECOME AN INVINCIBLE KILLING MACHINE. MY ENEMIES ARE EASILY SLAUGHTERED.

A FAIRYTALE FOX THIEF READIES ITS THROWING KNIFE, BUT I BEAT IT TO THE DRAW BY PRESSING X TO FIRE A SHURIKEN AT IT, CUTTING SHORT ITS PITIFUL EXISTENCE.

THIS MAY BE EASIER THAN I THOUGHT.

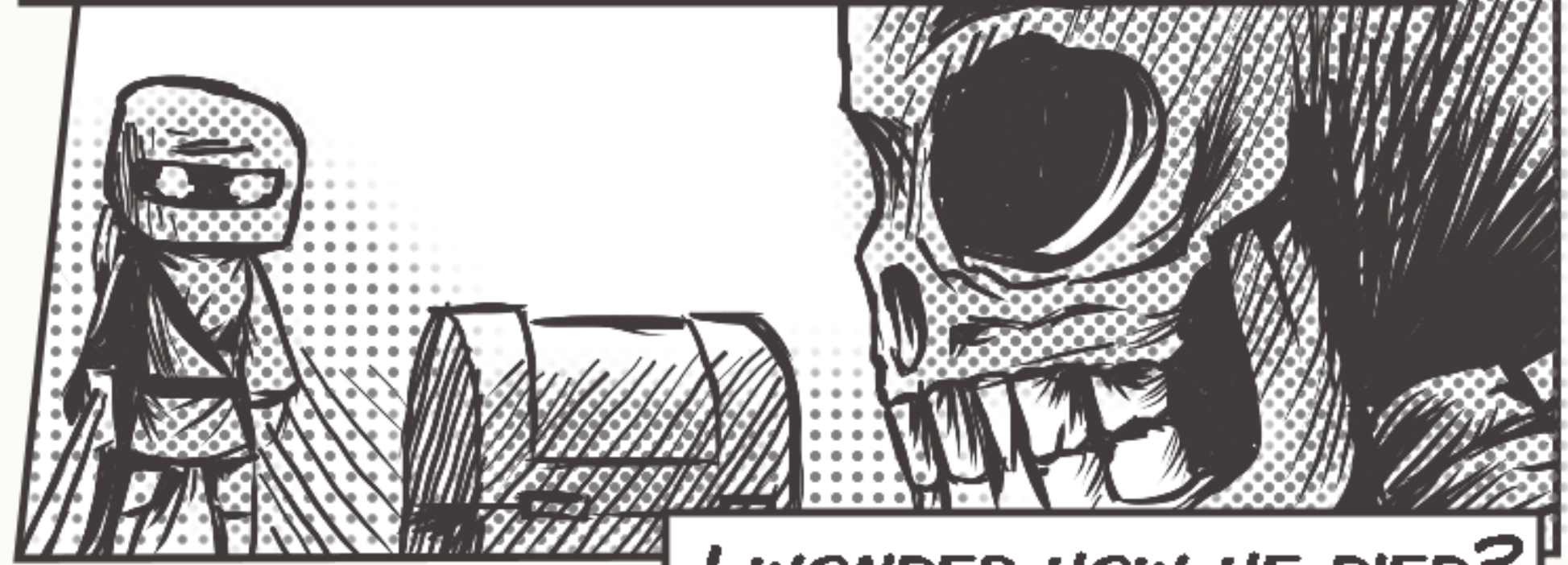
AS I ROUND THE CORNER THOUGH, I REMIND MYSELF THAT I SHOULD NEVER LET MY GUARD DOWN. FOR ANYTHING COULD ATTACK ME, AND, SHAMED AS I AM TO ADMIT IT, I CANNOT WITHSTAND MANY BLOWS.



...WELL, THIS IS MOST UNUSUAL

A SEALED TREASURE ROOM. TIME SEEMS TO PAUSE. NO ENEMIES CAN APPROACH WHEN I AM IN HERE. IT FEELS ALMOST... **PEACEFUL**

...OR AT LEAST IT WOULD BE WITHOUT THAT **SKELETON** SAT IN THE CORNER.



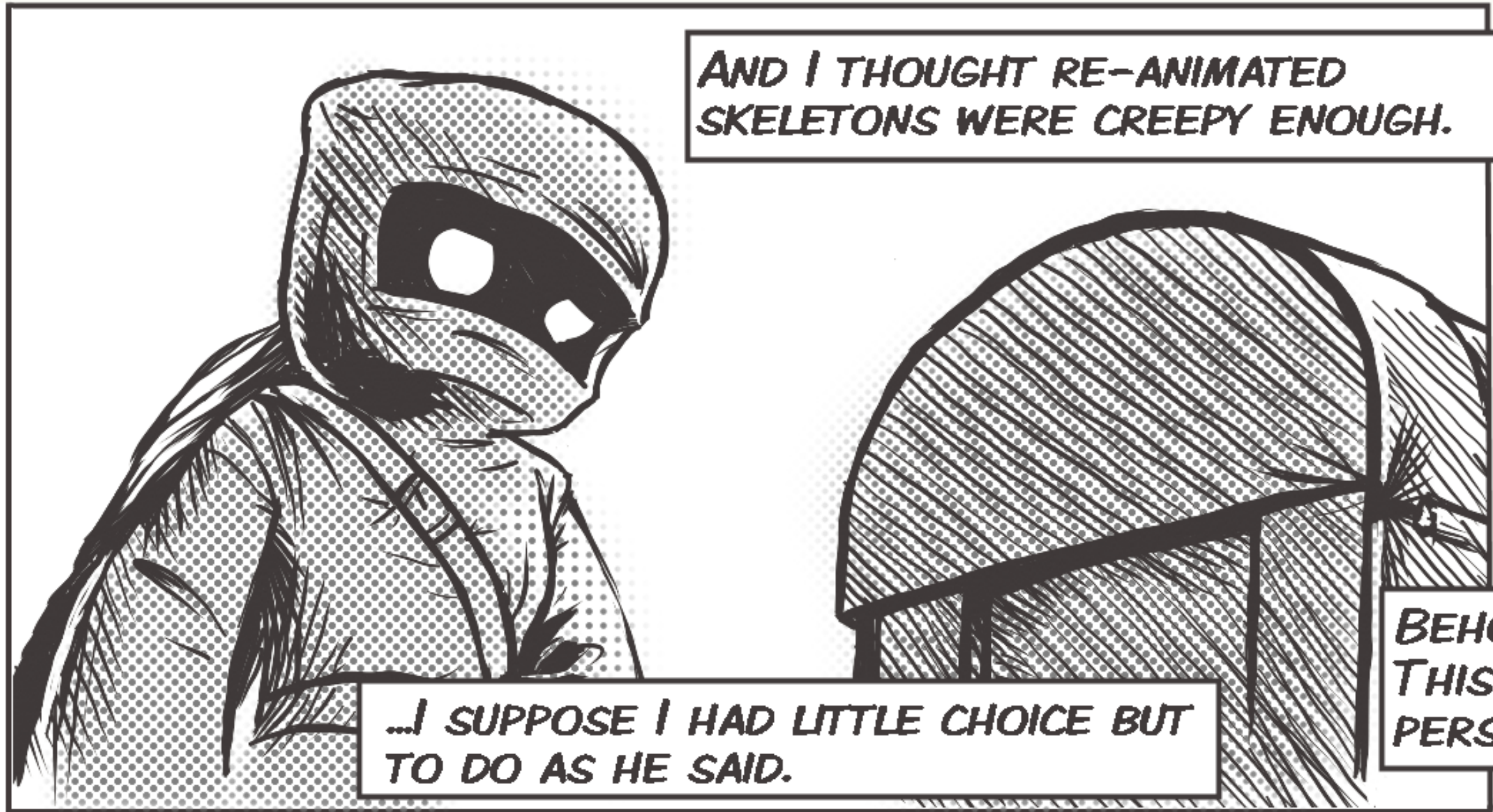
I WONDER HOW HE DIED?

WELL, WELL!

HELLO THERE, NINJETTE... COULDN'T HELP NOTICING YOU STARING AT THE GOODS OVER HERE.

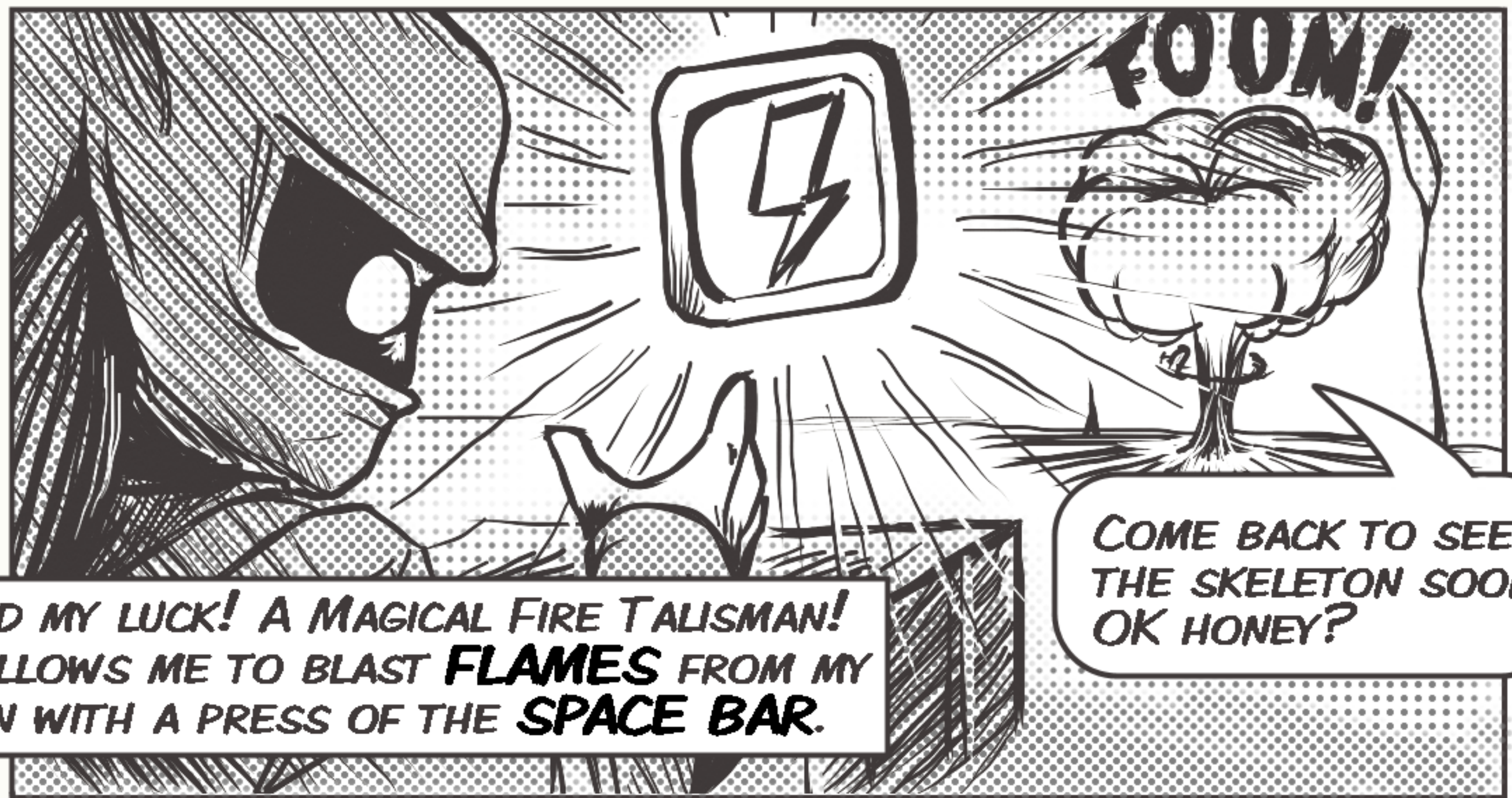


THEY CALL ME SMITHER, AND IT JUST SO HAPPENS THAT I PREPARED A NICE TREAT FOR A FINE LADY SUCH AS YOURSELF, AND YOU CAN FIND IT IN ANY ONE OF THESE THREE CHESTS. TREASURE CHESTS, I MEAN. YOU ONLY GET TO CHOOSE ONE THOUGH, SWEETCAKES!



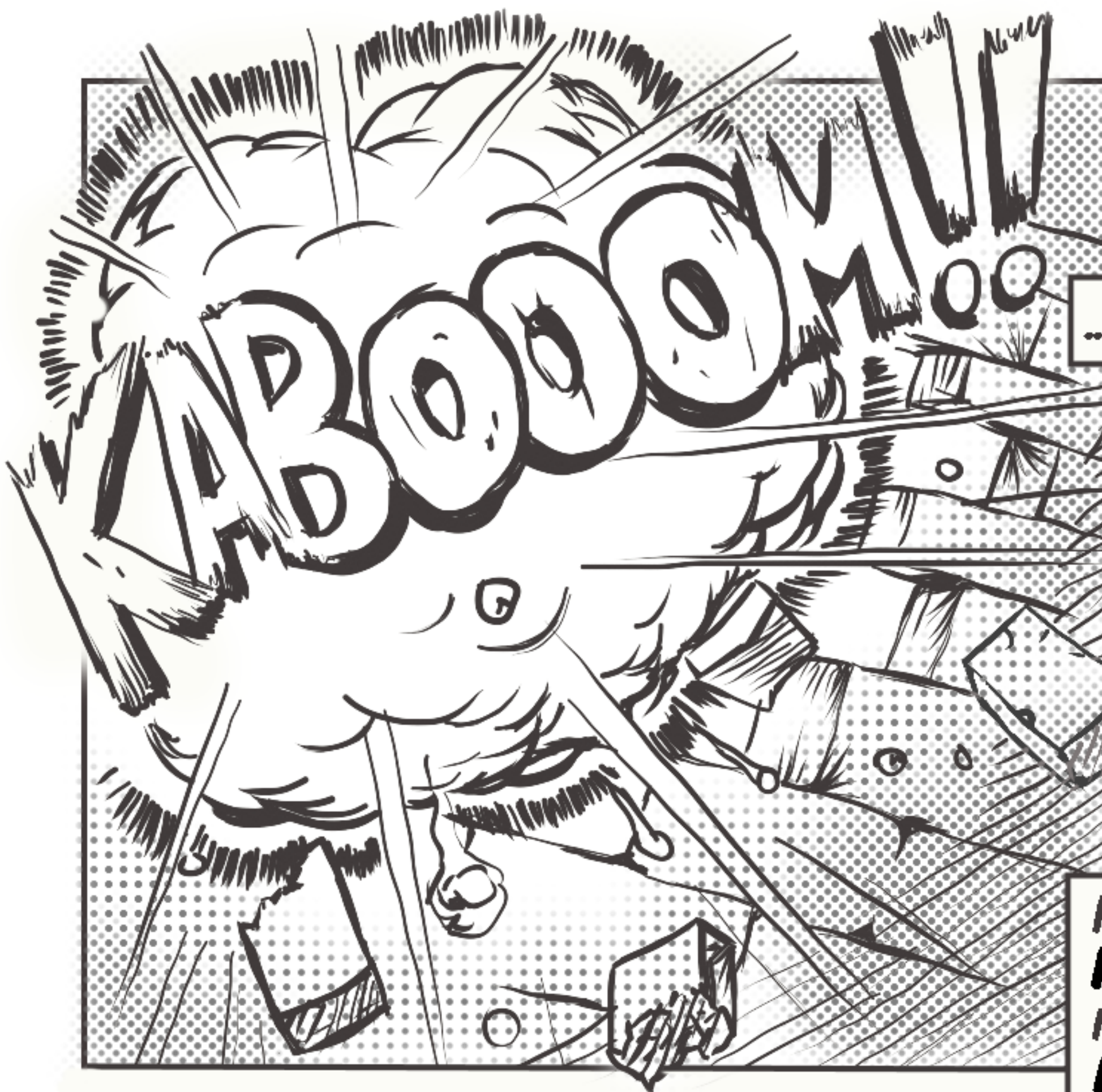
AND I THOUGHT RE-ANIMATED SKELETONS WERE CREEPY ENOUGH.

...I SUPPOSE I HAD LITTLE CHOICE BUT TO DO AS HE SAID.



BEHOLD MY LUCK! A MAGICAL FIRE TALISMAN! THIS ALLOWS ME TO BLAST **FLAMES** FROM MY PERSON WITH A PRESS OF THE **SPACE BAR**.

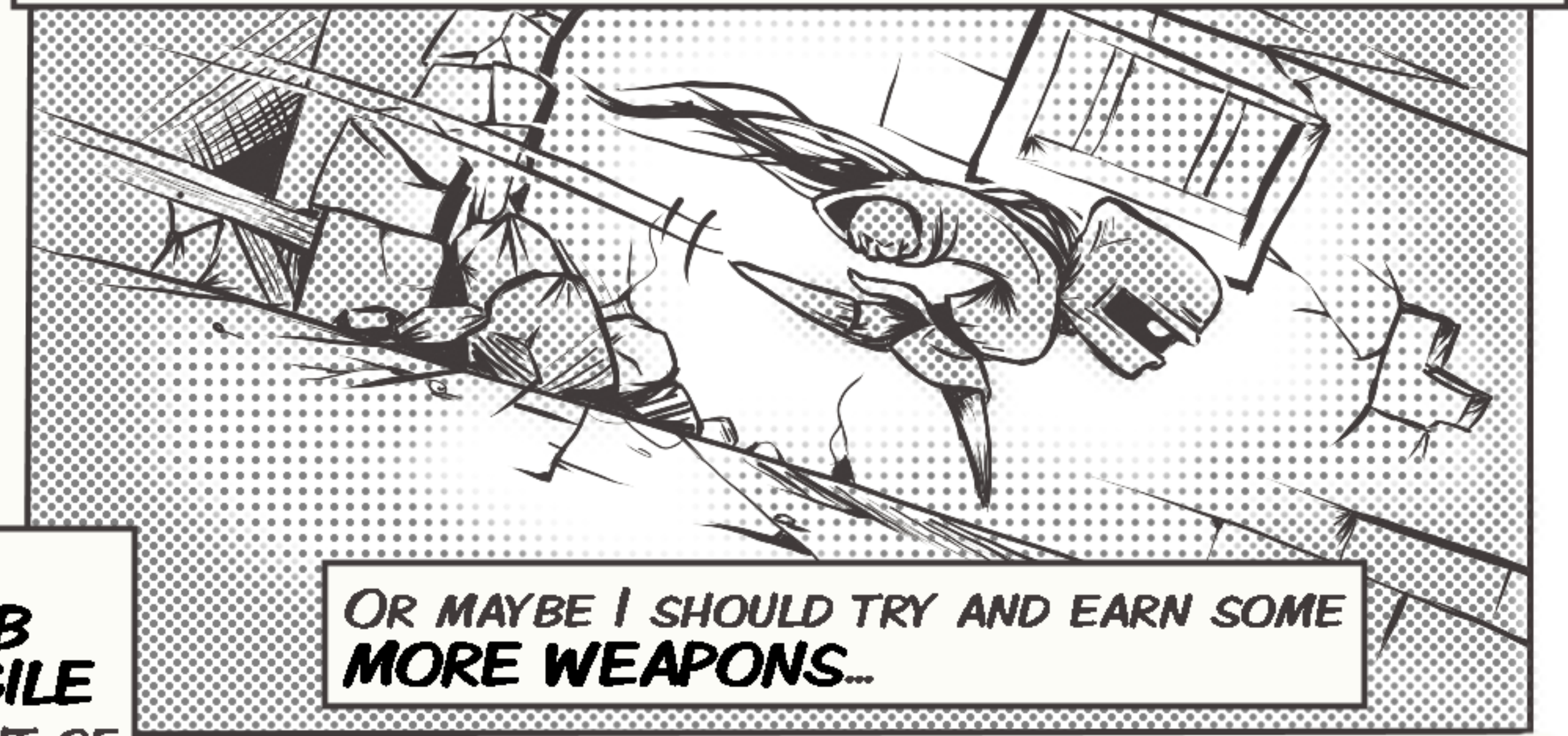
COME BACK TO SEE THE SKELETON SOON, OK HONEY?



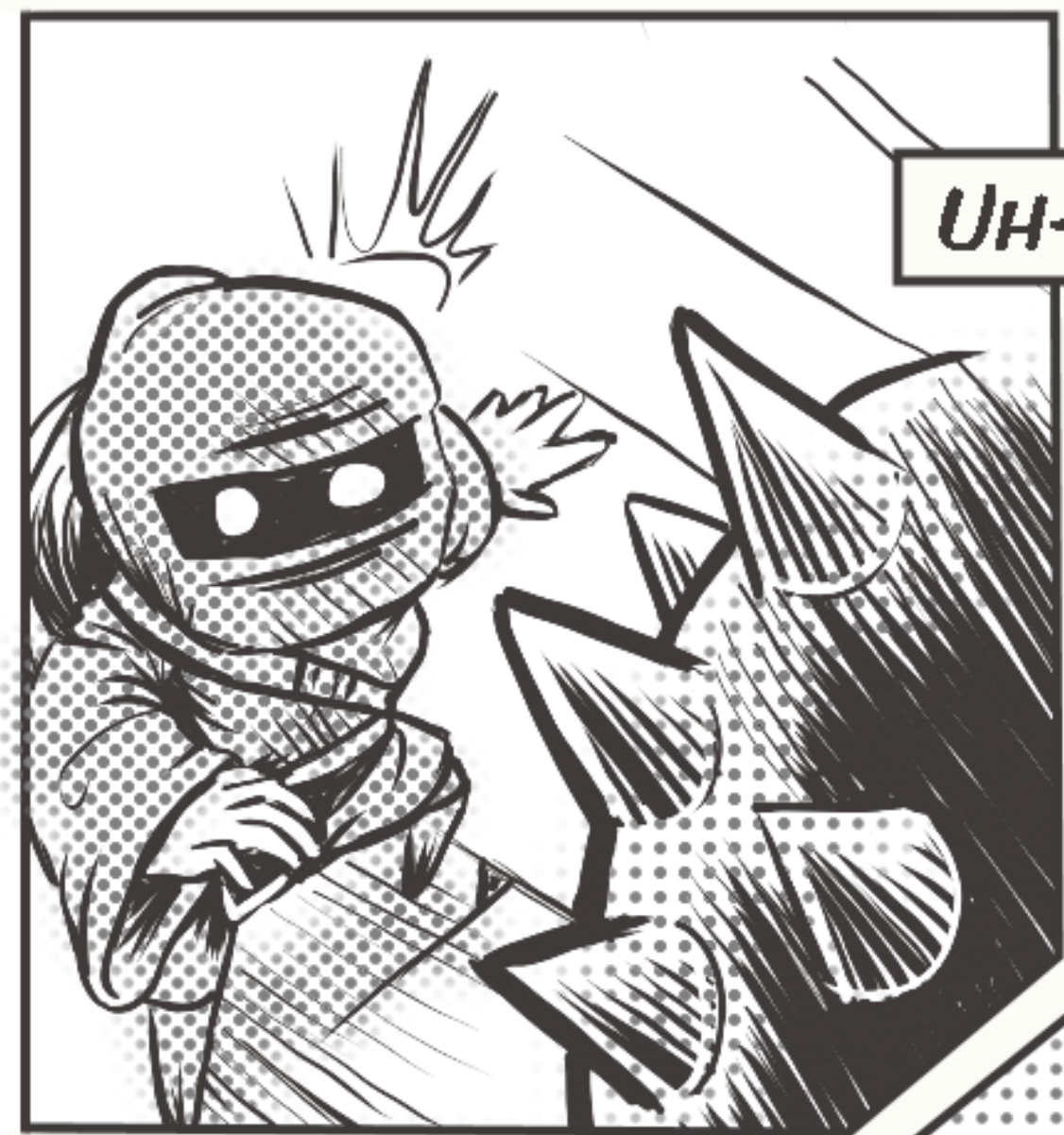
...I HOPE NO FOES HEARD THAT.

I HAD LITTLE CHOICE, THOUGH. **PRESSING C** TO USE A **BOMB** IN ORDER TO **DESTROY FRAGILE BLOCKS** WAS MY ONLY WAY OUT OF THE ROOM.

IT WAS FORTUITOUS THAT I REMEMBERED TO BRING THEM. I HAVE ACHIEVED ENOUGH RECOGNITION FROM THE LODGEKEEPER TO BE GRANTED ACCESS TO OTHER WEAPONS NOW. PERHAPS I SHOULD HAVE BROUGHT THE **KUSARIGAMA** WITH ITS **LONG RANGE**. OR THE **NUNCHUKS**, AND THEIR **UPGRADED ABILITY TO DEFLECT PROJECTILES**.



OR MAYBE I SHOULD TRY AND EARN SOME **MORE WEAPONS...**

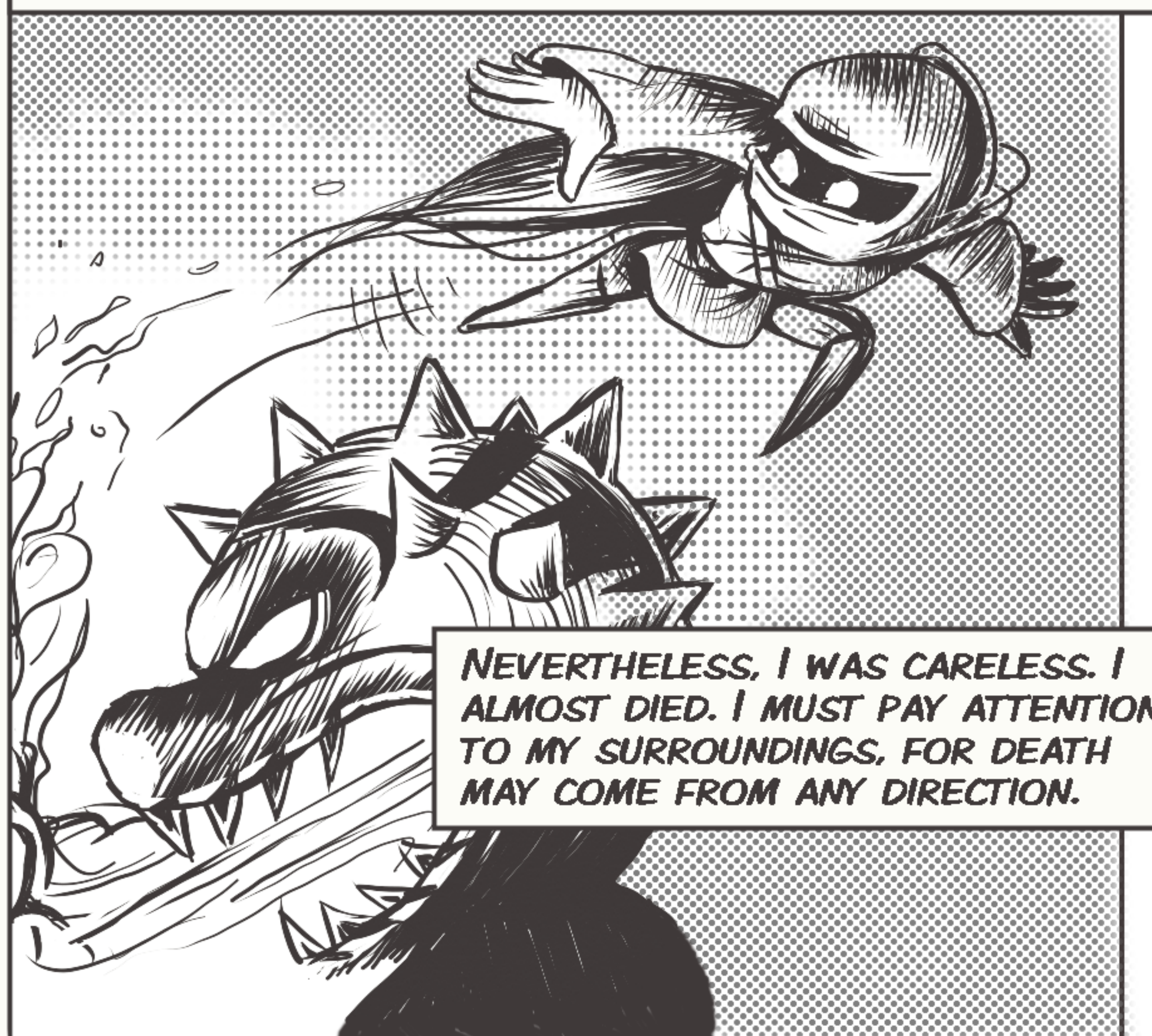


UH-OH!



I HAVE BEEN SPOTTED!

WITH LIGHTNING REFLEXES, I HELD DOWN THE **DOWN KEY**, AND BUILT UP ENOUGH POWER TO **JUMP SUPER HIGH** OVER THE CURSED STATUE'S FLAME BREATH.



NEVERTHELESS, I WAS CARELESS. I ALMOST DIED. I MUST PAY ATTENTION TO MY SURROUNDINGS, FOR DEATH MAY COME FROM ANY DIRECTION.

IT IS PROVING FAR TOO EASY TO LOSE TRACK OF HOW FAR I'VE BEEN TRAVELLING DOWNWARDS. I DO NOT KNOW WHERE I AM.

IS THIS... FLOOR 100, PERHAPS?

AT LEAST THE FEARED **MINIONS OF ABARGHUS** HAVEN'T FOUND ME YET.



!!

WELL...

...I SUPPOSE I SPOKE TOO SOON.



TO BE CONTINUED!

NEXT ON SUPER HOUSE OF DEAD NINJAS:

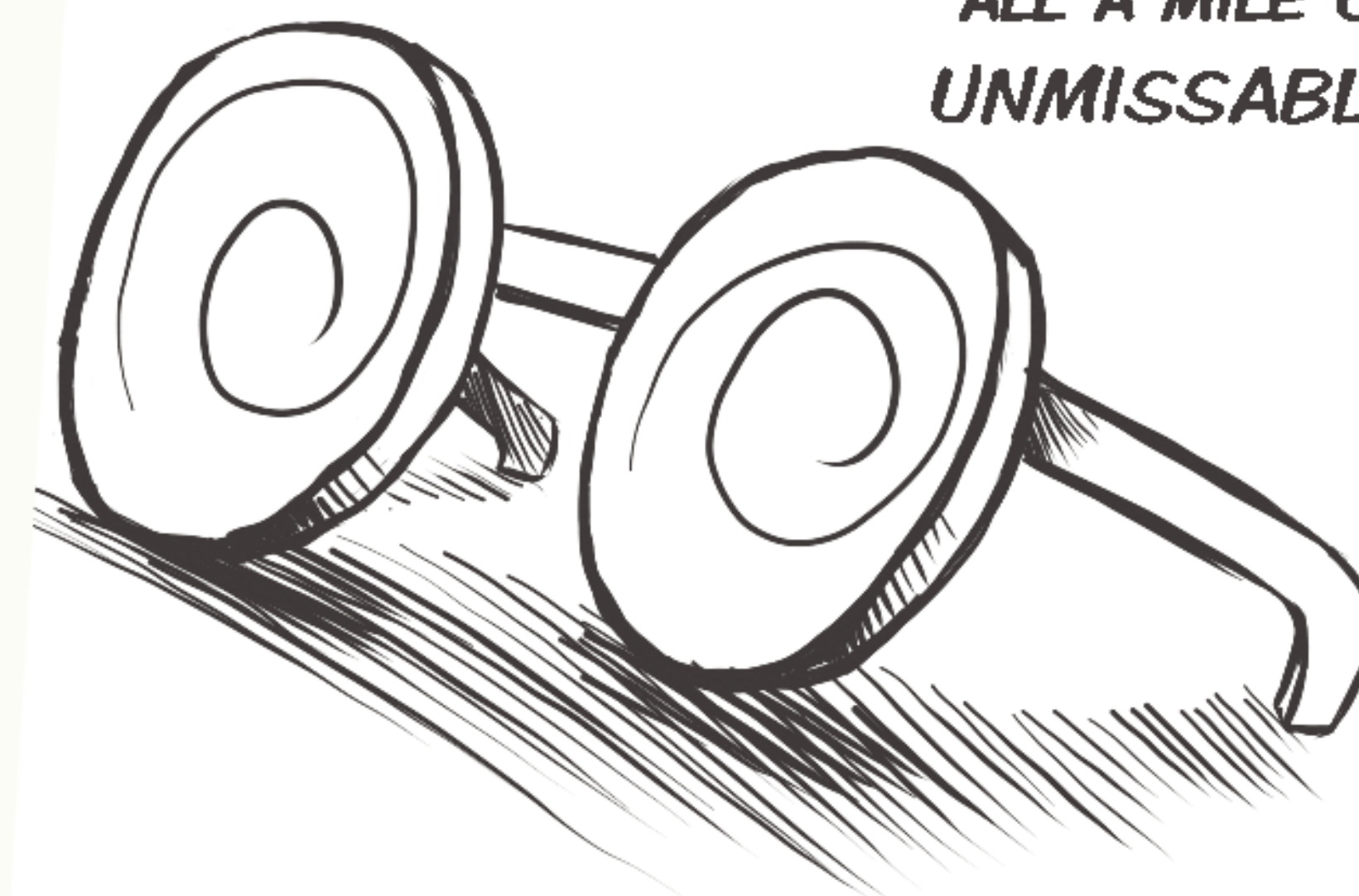
OUR HEROINE HAS ENCOUNTERED HORROR, THE FIRST OF MANY MINIONS. CAN SHE OVERCOME HIS FEARSOME REALITY-WARPING POWERS?

STAY TUNED FOR ISSUE #2!

**FREE WITH ISSUE #2!
HOUSE OF DEAD NINJAS
TRUMP CARDS!**

BATTLE WITH YOUR FAVOURITE CHARACTERS FROM THE HIT GAMES! FIGHT FIRE WITH FIRE, OR FROG WITH FOX!
BEAT YOUR FRIENDS WITH POWERS!!

(WE HOPE YOU ENJOY YOUR COMPLIMENTARY
FREE X-RAY SPECS
WITH THIS ISSUE! NO NEED TO WONDER WHAT YOUR
NEXT POWER-UP WILL BE, YOU CAN SPOT THEM
ALL A MILE OFF!
UNMISSABLE!)



THE POWER
OF
FIRE!

ISSUE
2